

Encyclopedia of Water in Islam and Modern Science

Introduction:

Water is one of the greatest blessings of Allah. It gives life, cleanses impurities, and symbolizes mercy. In Islam, water is both a physical need and a spiritual gift. The Qur'an mentions water many times, showing its importance for all living beings. Modern science also confirms that water is essential for life, which proves the divine truth revealed in the Qur'an centuries ago.

Importance of Water in Islam:

Allah says in the Qur'an, 'And We made from water every living thing.' (Surah Al-Anbiya 21:30). This verse teaches that water is the source of life. Islam teaches that water must be respected, shared, and not wasted. It is a gift from Allah that supports all creation — humans, animals, and plants.

Water as a Symbol of Purity:

In Islam, water is a sign of purity and renewal. Allah says, 'And He sent down water from the sky to purify you with it.' (Surah Al-Anfal 8:11). Muslims use water for wudu (ablution) and ghusl (ritual bath) before prayers. Cleanliness is an important part of faith, and the Prophet ﷺ said, 'Purity is half of faith.' (Sahih Muslim).

Ethical Use of Water:

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ taught Muslims not to waste water even during worship. He said, 'Do not waste water, even if you are at a flowing river.' (Ibn Majah 425). This shows that Islam teaches balance and care for nature. Wasting water is a sin because it disrespects Allah's blessings.

Shared Right to Water:

Islam teaches that water is a shared resource for all living beings. The Prophet ﷺ said, 'Muslims have common rights in three things: water, pasture, and fire.' (Abu Dawud 3477). Everyone — rich or poor — has the right to benefit from water. Sharing water is an act of mercy and charity.

Water and Mercy in Hadith:

The Prophet ﷺ told of a man who gave water to a thirsty dog. Allah forgave his sins because of this act of kindness. (Sahih Bukhari 2363). This shows that providing water to any living being is a form of charity (sadaqah). Even giving water to animals is rewarded by Allah.

Water in Paradise:

The Qur'an describes Paradise as a place where pure rivers flow. Allah says, 'In it are rivers of water incorruptible.' (Surah Muhammad 47:15). Believers who value and protect water in this world will enjoy everlasting blessings of pure water in Paradise.

Water According to Modern Science:

Modern science confirms that water is the foundation of life. About 71% of Earth's surface is covered by water, and every living cell depends on it. Water controls temperature, helps plants grow, and supports human health. Scientists say that without water, life cannot exist. Islam's teachings about purity, balance, and conservation perfectly match modern scientific understanding.

Science also shows that clean water is essential for a healthy body and a peaceful mind. Polluted water causes disease and harm. This matches Islam's command to keep water pure and unpolluted. Today, environmental experts warn that wasting water leads to drought and destruction — the same warning the Prophet ﷺ gave when he said not to waste water even at a river.

Summary:

Water in Islam is more than a natural resource; it is a trust (Amanah) from Allah. It is a sign of mercy, purity, and life. Islam teaches us to use water wisely, avoid waste, and share it with all creatures. Modern science now confirms what Islam taught over 1400 years ago — that water is the key to all life on Earth. Protecting and respecting water is both a duty to nature and a form of worship to Allah.